The Cotton Corporation of India has already constructed two godowns at Kalamboli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra which are fairly modern with storage capacity upto 8000 bales, while an additional two godowns are currently under construction.

Introduction of Comprehensive Transport Policy

2048. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a comprehensive transport policy;

(b) whether new transport policy is going to be announced during the current year;

(c) if so, the salient features of that policy; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d): The Standing Committee of Parliament on Transport and Tourism on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Surface Transport has *inter alia* recommended the formulation of an integrated approach to Surface Transport. Sinch this will involve other modes of transport like railways and civil aviation also in addition to Road Transport the Planning Commission was requested by Ministry of Surface Transport to take lead in the matter and it was proposed to set up a National Transport Coordination Committee for this purpose. However, to expedite the matter Ministry of Surface Transport approached the Planning Commission to persuade the Steering Committee on Inter-Modal Linkages and Programmes to undertake this exercise. The Planning Commission has maintained that the exercise by the Steering Committee has a limited scope for the 9th Five Year Plan whereas integrated Transport Policy will have a longer perspective going beyond 9th Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Surface Transport has already approached the external funding agencies like ADB and UNDP for necessary assistance in this regard. In these circumstances it would not be possible to draw up and announce any new Transport Policy during the current year.

Participatory Irrigation Management

2049. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have given high priority to the Participatory Irrigation Management scheme in the irrigation management;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to expedite the activities in this respect;

(c) whether there is any special assistance provided to State Governments for the rehabilitation works to expedite scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State of Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government have given priority to Participatory Irrigation Management Scheme in the irrigation management.

(b) The following steps have been taken to expedite farmers, participation in the management of irrigation:

— Giving management subsidy to farmers' associations under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

— Holding National Conferences and sponsoring State Level and Project Level Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management with farmers' participation in the State and Project level Conferences to create awareness.

— Conducting training courses at national level for officers and at State level for officers and farmers;

— Providing States with guidelines and assisting them in preparation of Manuals for formation of associations and introducing amendments in Irrigation Acts;

— Advising State Governments to constitute High Level Working Groups to formulate policies and guidelines for constituting farmers' associations; and